

Pope Gives Arafat Private 20-Minute Visit at Vatican

Associated Press
Pope John Paul II stands with smiling Yasser Arafat at Vatican.

Calls on Israel, PLO to Accept Others' Existence

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John Paul II gave Yasser Arafat a 20-minute private audience at the Vatican today and later made a speech calling on Israel and the PLO to "accept the existence and reality of the other."

Addressing 20,000 people at his weekly mass audience in St. Peter's Square, the pontiff made no reference to the unprecedented meeting with Arafat.

The Vatican provided few details of the audience, which a PLO official had called "a turning point in favor of the PLO."

The Rev. Pierfranco Pastore, a Vatican spokesman, said Arafat and the Polish-born pontiff talked alone and "probably" conducted their discussion in English. But he did not say what they talked about.

Arafat, wearing a black-and-white kaffiyeh headdress and an olive green uniform, was not armed with his customary pistol during the meeting in a room off the Paul VI Audience Hall, according to Vatican officials.

The announcement of the papal audience earlier this week had sparked sharp protests from Prime Minister Menachem Begin and other Israeli officials, and the meeting was swiftly denounced in Tel Aviv today.

Shocked Over Meeting

A Foreign Ministry statement said Israel was "shocked" over the meeting, which it said raised Arafat's stature. The Israeli government earlier charged that the meeting would damage the Vatican's neutrality on Middle Eastern conflicts, but the Vatican insisted that the audience did not constitute recognition of the PLO.

Arafat's bullet-proof Fiat limousine sped out of the Vatican at 5:03 p.m., followed by a police motorcade bristling with submachine guns. A smiling Arafat flashed a victory sign at reporters near the little-used side entrance known as the Perugino gate, where he had arrived a little over half an hour earlier.

Armed police barred reporters from entering the Vatican.

Mahmoud Labadi, Arafat's spokesman, said the PLO leader gave the Pope Palestinian-made, mother-of-pearl replicas of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, located at the site where Christ is believed to have been crucified, and the Dome of the Rock, a mosque where the prophet Mohammed is said to have risen to heaven.

In his speech to the crowd in St. Peter's Square, the Pope said:

"The Holy See is convinced above all that there can be no true peace without justice and that there will be no justice if the rights of all interested peoples are not recognized and accepted in a stable, adequate and equal way."

Look With Sympathy

"The Pope and the Catholic Church look with sympathy in consideration of both peoples (Israelis and Palestinians)," he said, adding that he hopes that "each one accepts the existence and reality of the other and that they may find a path to dialogue."

Arafat, who was driven by the Israelis from West Beirut along with 8,000 of his PLO guerrillas, has established his new headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia. His stop in Rome marked the beginning of a European visit to drum up support for his organization, now scattered in eight Arab nations, and for his call for a Palestinian state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Earlier, Arafat at an airport news conference blamed Israel for Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel's assassination by bomb Tuesday.

Speaking in Arabic, Arafat said Gemayel's killing was "an attempt to strike at Lebanese reconciliation and to offer a justification for the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon."

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In addition, the Administration charged, the redistricting plan unnecessarily fragments two cohesive Hispanic areas of the city to minimize or cancel out the voting strength of people of Spanish origin.

German Abbot Named

From Reuters

ECONE, Switzerland—A West German abbot, Franz Schmidberger, has been named to succeed rebel Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as leader of his traditionalist movement, a spokesman for the movement said today.

The Reagan Administration's re-

quest to join the Chicago case and become an active participant in it will have to be approved by U.S. District Judge Thomas R. McMillen.

"Although the black and Hispanic population of Chicago has increased by about 14 percentage points since the 1970 census, the redistricting plan reduces the number of wards in which the minority population can have a fair opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice to the 50-member council," the government charged.

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"This is the first time that we have applied Section 2 against a major city, and one of the few times we have applied Section 2 outside the South," said Justice Department spokesman John Wilson.

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Industrial Production Declines 0.5% 11th Drop in 13 Months Is Blow for Hopes of Recovery

From Times Wire Services

WASHINGTON—In another blow to hopes for an economic recovery, the government reported today that production by the nation's factories and mines fell 0.5% in August, the 11th decline in the last 13 months.

The new drop reflected "continued cutbacks in production of business equipment and a sharp cut in output of motor vehicles," the Federal Reserve Board said.

The report said revised figures showed industrial production actually rose 0.1% in July, rather than declining by that margin as estimated one month ago. The only

other increase in the last 13 months was in February, a gain most analysts laid to unusually good weather.

In August, the report said, "output of consumer goods declined 1.2% following gains in each of the preceding three months that averaged 0.9%."

"In recent months, auto production has exceeded sales, resulting in excess dealers' inventories" and little incentive for companies to build new cars, the report said.

In August, auto assemblies were reduced more than 16% to an annual rate of 5.5 million units, it said.

Production of consumer goods

other than autos declined slightly in August, and business equipment output was reduced 1.4%, the report said.

The only major categories to show any improvement were those for defense and space equipment, with output up 0.8%, and construction supplies, up 0.2%.

Factory production accounts for nearly a third of the value of all the goods and services produced by the American economy but has borne the biggest portion of recession cutbacks while the services sector, from fast food restaurants to insurance companies, has been far less affected.

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